

Applicant: Christopher J. LaRiviere
Application No.: 09/260,458
Art Unit: 3725

a1 with the baffle];

a tramp outlet positioned near the lowermost portion of the shroud[, and wherein rotary motion of the stock about the cylindrical structure persists as the flow passes through the holes so that the stock can flow through openings formed in the rotor with less resistance].

a2 7. (Amended) The refiner of Claim 4 [wherein the rotor is mounted on a spline formed at the end of the shaft,] wherein the spline transmits rotary power to the rotor but is not affixed to the rotor, and wherein sufficient play between the rotor and the spline is provided so that the rotor slides along the spline, thus positioning the rotor in response to hydrodynamic forces between the stationary plate mounted on the support structure and the stationary plate mounted on the sliding head and wherein a very small amount of tilting of the rotor with respect to the axis of the shaft is thus [also] accommodated by the spline hub mount.

Remarks

Claims 1– 4 and 6–10 remain pending in the application. In the Office Action dated June 18, 1999, the Examiner rejected claims 1 – 10 as failing to define the invention in the manner required by 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph. Claim 1 was rejected as anticipated by *Musselman*, claims 2 – 10 were rejected as obvious over *Musselman* in view of *Mokvist et al.*

Claim 1 has been amended to remove indefinite language and to more clearly distinguish over the art of record. *Musselman* does not show or suggest “an upstream chamber in communication with the inlet, wherein the first plate support structure has an upstream face which is exposed to and substantially surrounded by the upstream chamber” This is a key feature of the claimed invention allowing substantial savings in machine weight and at the same time providing less flexing of the

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stationary refiner plate within the disk refiner.

Claim 2 as amended defines a refiner having two stationery and two rotating refiner disks and an inner shell which separates the portion of the housing forming the circular flow path from the rotor. *Mokvist et al.* has a single rotating and single stationery disk and no inner shell separating the circular flow path from the rotor.

Claim 4 as amended defines a refiner having a shroud, the shroud having inner cylindrical structure surrounding a bulkhead through which the shaft on which the rotor is mounted passes, further it defines a refiner having a baffle terminating a passageway defined by the shroud, and a plurality of holes in the inner cylindrical structure connecting the passageway to a reservoir. These structures do not read on the structure of *Mokvist et al.* but are particular to applicant's disclosed invention and provide the disclosed function of separating tramp metal from stock before it passes through the refiner disks. The disclosed structures also performs the function of pre-rotating the stock before it enters a reservoir surrounding the refiner shaft.

The dependent claims add additional limitations providing further grounds for allowability. In particular, claim 3 adds a limitation directed to the way in which the stationary support structure is supported by fluid pressure.

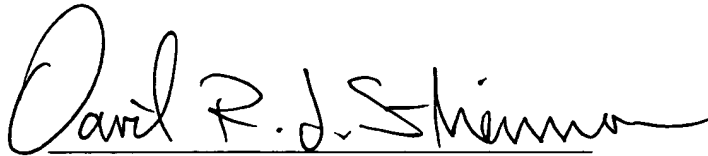
FIG. 2 incorrectly indicates the hole 54 with the call-out number 35. The drawing has been amended to supply the correct call-out number. A photoprint of FIG. 2 with the proposed change marked in red is attached. It is requested that the requirement for formal drawings be held in abeyance until such time as a Notice of Allowability is issued.

Applicant believes that no new matter has been added by this amendment.

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Applicant submits that the claims, as amended, are in condition for allowance. Favorable action thereon is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "David R. J. Stiennon". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a horizontal line drawn underneath it.

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APPROVED
FOR ENTRY
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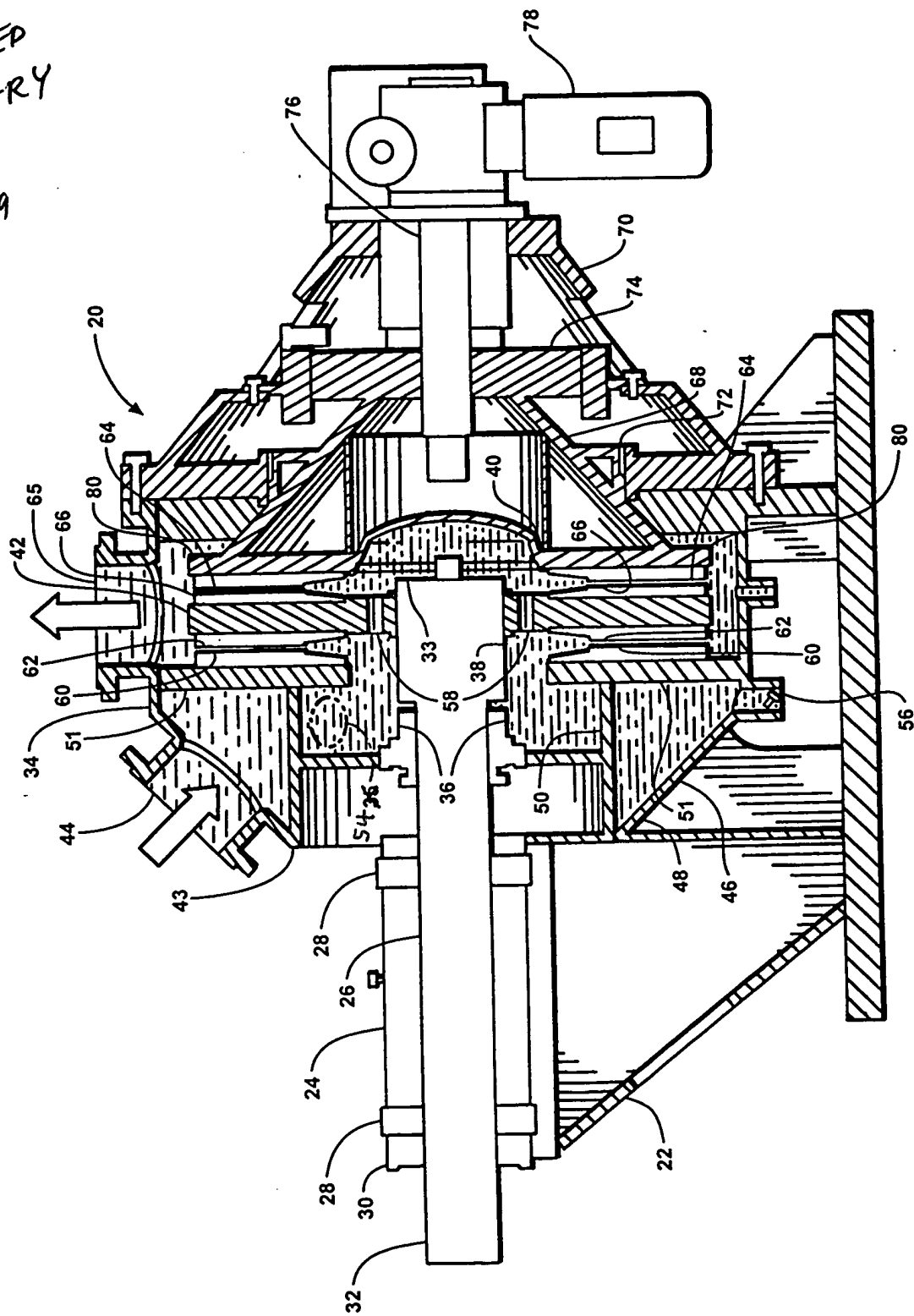


FIG. 2